

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 24, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Christmas Eve. 1876? My dear Alec:

I wonder if you have the least idea what a commotion your telegram aroused in my mind. I have been very angry indeed, I am sorry I was now, but still regret at least the way you went off. When your telegram was first put in my hands and opened I was so astonished that at first I did not understand the words. Then I thought you must be crazy or something, or that you did not comprehend the importance of your being in . So I telegraphed and waited, but with little hope of it's being any use. Next day came your postal which in my excited state irritated me. I was sure you had not heard from Mr. Pollok to cause you to disregard my letter. However I thought if you could reach Washington in time it would not make any difference. This morning Papa came, and his first words were "Where is Alec," and I found he did not know of your departure. He evidently does not like your going without telling him. He does not think you told Mr. Pollok, I fear not also, but have tried to persuade him you must have, and that you thought in telegraphing me you telegraphed him. I am very glad you have gone to your Father and mother this Christmas, not only because you and they must enjoy it, but because if anything happened to either of them this New Year, you would never forgive yourself for not going. I am glad you are so fond of them, and so willing to do anything to give the pleasure, and I know if you are so true to them you will be equally true to us, but I think you should have considered also if your going did others an injury or not. You cannot have known definitely about this business, for aught 2 you know it might admit of no delay without damaging the interests of others, of Papa and Mr. Sanders who have spent, and are spending hard earned money on this. I think you owed it to them to tell them of your intentions and give them time to tell you of their arrangements, the more so that you gave Mr. Pollok carte blanche to appoint

Library of Congress

whatever day during the holidays he liked for your appearance. Papa is going to telegraph you tonight, please make up for your inconsiderateness (as it seems to me) by doing as he wants you to. I am afraid Papa will scold you as he says, and I am very sorry, I can't bear that any one should find fault with you. You and he are so different, I fear he will never thoroughly understand you, he himself is such a devotee to duty, he never thinks of coming to see Mamma if doing so interferes with anything, he cannot understand how in another the feeling of love should be stronger than most anything else. Poor Alec you must have been very very tired and worried and altogether pulled to pieces, and I am so glad you are at last with your Mother and can have her tender love and care about you. I hope your visit will thoroughly rest you and that though sorry to leave your home friends you will be glad to come back to us. And I will be just as good as poss